GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

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Concerning the Use of Bulletin Material

IT IS fully realized that the content of the Geographic News Bulletin is not always adapted for use, as it stands, to pupils in grade schools. Some of the material must be interpreted by the teacher, and translated into simpler form for younger pupils.

The bulletins are used in universities, colleges and public libraries, as well as in high schools and grade schools. Hence their adaptation must be left, in part, to the teachers to whom they go. They are not mailed direct to pupils.

Moreover, some of the most valuable material is that supplied by correspondents of The National Geographic Society, and may not be altered materially and still be credited to the authors. Such credit is valuable because the writers, in every case, are experts in the subjects they treat.

For more mature pupils the bulletins are serviceable because they are addressed to the adult mind. It is aimed to make them so interesting that the pupil will be encouraged to investigate the allusions with which he is not familiar.

Posting on school bulletin boards is recommended as an excellent way to arouse interest in their subject matter.

Valuable suggestions regarding matter which teachers especially need, and constructive criticisms about the text used, have been received. Correspondence concerning the bulletin is invited.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Bulletins are furnished by The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

Teachers may apply individually for them; principals may apply for copies for teachers (not for individual pupils at present) and for their school libraries. Superintendents desiring copies for their entire teaching staff should correspond with the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., as to methods of sending in quantities.

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Sea Food and Geography

NOW that the seas are open to the pursuits of peace, and the world is sorely in need of food, many problems of ocean geography are likely to be solved in the course of the quest for deep sea rations.

The ocean literally teems with food. The man who declared that humanity is a race of herring-catchers might have overstated the case, but that the sea abounds in food-fishes and fishes fit for food is well known. As soon as we begin to study the subject of ocean fisheries, however, we come up short against the fact that what we really know about the inhabitants of the sea is startingly limited.

It was not so long ago that the fishermen of the North Sea believed that whales brought the herring in toward shallow water—a conclusion they reached from the observation that schools of herring are frequently found in the vicinity of spouting whales. In 1906 there was a failure of the herring fisheries, and the fishermen blamed the situation on the Norwegian whaling vessels operating in that region.

Looks Like "Mermaid With Binoculars"

The problem of life in the ocean is one full of interest and pregnant with valuable lessons for mankind. Even at the bottom of the deepest trench in the abysmal region of the sea's bottom, where no ray of the sun ever penetrated, where Stygian night is perpetual, where freezing temperatures never cease and where inconceivable pressures prevail, the miracle of life still goes on.

Eerie creatures exist in these uttermost depths. Here is a fish swimming by with light-giving organs ranged in rows from nose to tail, on port and starboard sides, a fantastic miniature of an ocean liner, alight from stem to stern gliding noiselessly through the perpetual night. There is another, with a well-defined searchlight with which to explore the blackness around. Here is a breathing caricature of a mermaid with binoculars, and there a creature whose eyes are upon the ends of long stalks reaching out from the head like sunflowers from the ground.

Likewise, it is still a moot question whether or not modern fishing methods tend to deplete the supply, and whether artificial propagation of sea fishes is a sufficient counter-measure. A few years ago a British commission measured the intensity of fishing operations in the North Sea. Trailing bottles were set adrift, and it was found that more than half of them were recaptured. In certain localities they were captured at a rate that indicated 90 per cent retaken each season. Marked fish yielded largely similar results, and the conclusion was that a food-fish of adult size had at least three to one odds against its getting through the year uncaught.

Little Race Suicide in Ocean

And yet there is so little race suicide in the ocean that even such intensive fishing probably has no effect upon the available adult supply. For instance,

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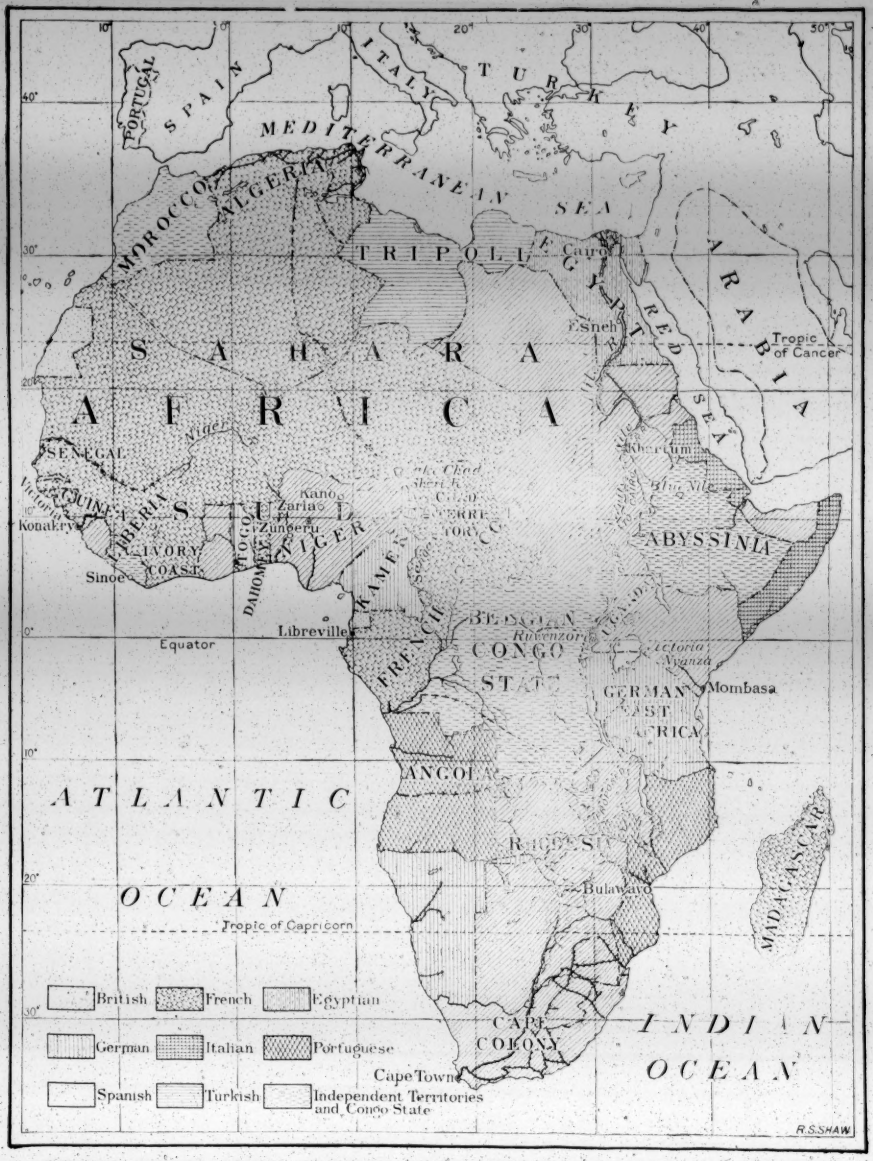

OUTLINE MAP OF AFRICA, SHOWING POSSESSIONS OF EACH EUROPEAN POWER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD WAR. ALL GERMAN POSSESSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO REDISTRIBUTION WHEN THE PROVISIONS OF THE PEACE TREATY ARE APPLIED AND BECOME OPERATIVE. MOZAMBIQUE, DESCRIBED IN BULLETIN NO. 3, LIES IN PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA, OPPOSITE THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR

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Danzig: City of Churches, Forts and Canals

DANZIG, which Poland looks to as her coveted outlet to the Baltic, is disturbed just now because it is held that her status was not definitely enough defined at the Paris Peace Conference.

Picture a far north Venice, cut through with streams and canals, equipped also with a sort of irrigation system to flood the country for miles about, not for cultivation but for defense; a city of typical Philadelphia streets, only with those long rows of stoops made of stone and highly decorated, and jutting into the roadway instead of on the sidewalk. Then you catch but a glimpse of the composite Danzig.

As a city of churches Danzig vies with Brooklyn; its crooked, winding streets suggest those Boston thoroughfares of cowpath derivation; and were its grain warehouse more modern the visitor might believe himself in Minneapolis. Minneapolis, that is, until he heard the warehouse names—such names as Golden Pelican, Little Ship, Gray Goose, and Milk Maid—then he might expect to find them popular resorts akin to those of New York's Greenwich Village.

In no other city of the land that was Germany is mediaeval architecture to be found in such variety and preservation as in Danzig. Conspicuous both in Polish and German history, Danzig was one of the four principal centers of the Hanseatic League, while not far up the Vistula is Marienburg, capital of the Teutonic Order of Knights, which flourished in Danzig.

Escaped Effects of Reformation

Physically, Danzig escaped many effects of the Reformation. Even in her famous St. Mary's Church, one of the largest Protestant edifices in the world, covering an area as great as the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, are to be found reliquaries and manuscripts, embroideries of Roman, Byzantine and Gothic designs, treasures in precious metals, stones and ivories, and a noted collection of vestments. Among its art works is the famous "Last Judgment" of Hans Memling.

In appearance almost as much like a fortress as a church, bringing to mind Luther's militant hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God," the church has been called "one of the most German things in Germany." In many ways it suggests the Prussian militaristic spirit. From the vaulting, for example, projects one of Napoleon's cannon balls.

But the Danzig visitor needs no indirect intimation of militarism. The city was one of the most strongly fortified places in the now shattered German empire. With Konigsberg, Thorn and Posen, Danzig helped form a mighty chain of fortifications. To the east and south of the city older defenses were supplemented in recent years by a score of bastions. Along the Vistula, on which the city lies, to its mouth at Neufahrwasser, four miles away, stretches a line of forts. In addition, three sides of the town could be inundated by the garrison.

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the female turbot lays 8,500,000 eggs a year, and the cod has 4,500,000 to her credit. The female flounder lays 1,400,000, the sole 570,000, the haddock 450,000, and the plaice 300,000. The poor herring must be content with a meager 31,000.

Much remains to be learned about the migration habits of the world's food-fishes. Where do the salmon go after they leave the rivers? Why does the eel, as discovered sometime since by the Danes, go far out to sea, far to the south and west of the Irish coast, to spawn, and how do the countless hordes of delicate elvers find their way around the British Isles and into the continental rivers? Innumerable are the questions like these that the future will reveal to the oceanographers of a new day.

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They Wear Rattles on Their Ankles; And Dance to Music of the Marimba

(This is the first of a series of bulletins on the places and peoples of Africa)

THE war is ending, but the necessity for learning strange sounding names of new lands and peoples is far from over. The spot-light which has brought to view such little-known peoples as the Czechs, the Croats, and the Ukrainians in Europe, now will be turned, in part, on Africa.

Through the redistribution of colonial possessions, and the removal of the blight of German domination, Africa bids fair to be the "boom continent" of the twentieth century. Consider Mozambique, which is a Portugese colony to the south of what was German East Africa, now released from the imperial designs of German African expansion, and therefore extremely apt to play a more conspicuous part in African development. O. W. Barrett describes Mozambique as follows:

"A country as big as the Atlantic States from Florida to New York, with the capital near the southern boundary, and a half-dozen smaller towns scattered along the coast; more than 3,000,000 inhabitants, of which only about one per cent are white; one of the oldest of all European possessions and one of the richest in agricultural possibilities, but one of the least known countries in the world. Such is Mozambique.

A Birdseye View of Mozambique

"There are four or five good ports and as many bad ones; five towns and a small, but up-to-date capital city, and a generous number of military posts and outposts, a few of which are in the real raw interior; millions of acres have the finest alluvial soil fairly aching to show the farmer what big crops may be grown; waterways like the Zambesi, the Limpopo, and plenty of smaller ones allow cheap handling of products. The country has no deserts, no salt sinks, no large swamps, no mountainous wastes, no impenetrable jungles. Out of some twenty, only one or two tribes object seriously to paying taxes to the government, now that they realize that the tax collector is a vital organ of the white tribe, which objects to any one tribe exterminating another in the good old way. Wicked as a bush policeman tries to be, he must needs fall far short of the unrestrained chief's 'induna.'

"The early history of this strange section of East Africa should not be, even if it could be, written. We know the old-time black was as bad as a barbarian can be, and the endless tale of persistent, widespread, and continuous butchery would not be good to read.

"The Zulus have had for centruies a superstitious fear of salt water, and so, when Chaka, Dingaan, and their brother fiends had devastated practically all the country between Zululand and Inhambane, wiping out Kraals and even whole tribes by scores, they came to a long chain of lakes (the lower

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Streets are lined with ornate old houses of the Hanseatic period, crowned with high gables, often profusely ornamented. Balconies overhang the streets and, in spite of the impedient they offer to traffic, many of the elevated stone porches remain. Gargoyles grin from ancient walls. Vistas abound. There are many old water gates. One of these, the Hobe Tor, is fashioned after a Roman arch. Another, the Kran Thor, with each successive story projecting farther than the one below, looks like the leaning tower of Pisa.

Had a Composite Ancestry

Danzig's beginnings are not known. Poland, Denmark, Pomerania and Brandenburg held it at various early times. In the fourteenth century it came under the sway of the Teutonic Knights. Not long afterward it became one of the four centers of the Hanseatic League. With the decline of the league it allied itself with Poland, retaining most of its rights as a free city. It had a flag derived from the red and white emblem of the league, employing the red as a field upon which were three gold crowns, arranged vertically.

Russians and Saxons took the city and the score or more neighboring villages it governed in 1734. When Poland was partitioned, four years before the American colonists signed the Declaration of Independence, Danzig was separated from Poland, and 21 years later Prussia gained possession of it. Again made a free city by Napoleon, it passed once more to Poland, then back to Prussia in 1814.

Danzig became the capital of West Prussia. Government and private docks were located there. Ship building and the making of munitions were introduced and amber, beer and liquors were other products. Its granaries, built on an island, were erected when it was the principal grain shipping port for Poland and Silesia.

Danzig is a little farther by rail northeast of Berlin, than Boston is from New York. Its population, in 1910, was about that of Columbus, Ohio.

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Kiel Canal: Built For War, Now Peacetime Waterway

KIEL CANAL, once held by Germany, closed with the outbreak of the World War, now is open to commerce of the world.

The canal was built by Germany and enlarged primarily for naval operations. The British fleet kept close watch lest German warships emerge into the North Sea from the canal, until it was realized that the Kaiser's much vaunted fleet had no stomach for coming out to fight either by the Kiel or Skagerrack routes.

Variously known as the Kiel, North Sea, or Baltic Canal, the official name of the waterway was the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal. Finding a new name undoubtedly will be the least of the troubles concerning its future status. The name Kiel, by which it is generally known, is somewhat misleading. Though the canal's eastern terminus is in Kiel harbor, it is nearly two miles north of the city of Kiel, at Holtenau. From that point it extends to Brunsbuttel on the Elbe, cutting across the base of the peninsula which contains Denmark and most of Schleswig-Holstein.

Naval Importance to Germany

The canal's naval importance arose from the fact that it saved about 200 miles in the passage from the erstwhile Kaiser's chief naval port, at Kiel, to the advance post of Germany's naval defenses, at Helgoland.

Though Kiel presented no such engineering difficulties as the construction of the Panama Canal, the two are comparable in some dimensions. The Kiel canal is about 60 miles long, that at Panama a fraction more than 40. Kiel's width, after its reconstruction, completed in 1914, was 335 feet at the surface and 144 feet at the bottom, with a depth of 36 feet. The Panama Canal has a minimum bottom width of 300 feet, an average of 649 feet, and a minimum depth of 41 feet.

Locks Neutralize the Tides

Locks are used principally to neutralize the tides. When the rebuilding was completed, doubling the bottom width and increasing the canal's depth by six feet, new locks gave a length of 1,082 feet, longer than those of the Panama Canal. But intermediate gates were provided to afford chambers of about a third that length. Passage through the canal takes a steamer eight or nine hours. Its entire length is electric lighted.

After eight years' work and the expenditure of the equivalent of $39,000,000, the canal was first opened in 1895. Its reconstruction, begun in 1907, cost $55,000,000 more.

The added width and depth permitted the biggest of the Kaiser's warships to pass through. Wilhelm was on hand for the opening ceremonies. In his yacht Hohenzollern he visited Kiel harbor annually for the Kieler Woche, or Kiel week, the German regatta which corresponded to Cowes week in England.

Bulletin No. 4, January 26, 1920.

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Inharrime) parallel with the coast, and there they stopped, thus saving one tribe of true, pure-blood Kafirs who had fled over onto the dunes and low, bushy hills between the 'rosary' of brackish lagoons and the Indian Ocean. This tribe, the M'chopis, is the purest, if not the only unmixed Kafir tribe now in existence.

They Have Xylophone Orchestras, Too

"At Quesico we had the good fortune to witness a batuque, or ball, lasting nearly three days, at which about 3,000 fine specimens, mostly adults, were present. To describe the weird minor music of the marimbas, or huge xylophones, the blood-freezing death chants, the thrilling war songs, the 'expression' dances of both women and men, and rites and divination ceremonies which the witch doctors were induced to show us would require much space.

"The young girls' dance of the M'chopi tribe requires several years' practice before the difficult poses and contortions can be successfully performed. Ankle rattles are worn by the girls. These hollow spheres are made of palm-leaf or grass, if not young gourd fruits, and are partially filled with large seeds, pebbles, etc. The noise of these ankle rattles is supposed to assist in keeping time in the dance. This is probably a Zulu custom, and even today in civilized Durban the ricksha boys frequently wear similar ornaments.

"Near Mopea, three days up the Zambesi, we passed through two small native kraals in which the lions had eaten eighteen people in three months previous. It is quite impossible to hunt these man-eaters on account of the tall, rank grass (four to six feet high), and, since they soon learn that two or three cuffs will make a big hole in the side of an ordinary hut, the poor native must roost high or die."

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Epirus: Renowned Because of an Oracle and a Woman

THE eastern shore line of Adriatic Sea which continues southward as the eastern shore of the Ionian Sea, the exit of the Adriatic, has been a seething cauldron of racial strife from the time of the Persian and Roman Empires to the peace conference of 1919.

Like unto the controversy between Italy and the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes over Fiume, is the dispute farther south concerning the historic Epirus, now partly in Albania, which Greece wishes wholly restored to her domain.

Five centuries before Christ Epirus was set off like a little island, apart from Alexander's vast domains, with Macedonia and Hellas and the Ionian Sea as its boundaries. The name, meaning "mainland," was given it to distinguish it from the Grecian islands which fringe its coast line.

Corinthians, Athenians and Spartans looked upon the Epirotes as barbarians, though Aristotle believed Epirus the original home of the Hellenes. Today the major portion of the ancient area is comprised in Albania, among the youngest and least known of all the states of Europe.

Rustling of Leaves Interpreted as Divine Messages

An oracle and a woman won for Epirus renown in the ancient world. From prehistoric times messages of the gods were received at Dodona through the rustlings of the leaves on an oak tree where Zeus was supposed to lurk, and from Epirus came Olympias, mother of Alexander the Great, whose son's renown does not overshadow her own major part in the history of her times.

Ruins of the Dodona temples were discovered within the last half century a few miles southwest of Janina. According to local tradition the first message was delivered by a dove speaking with a human voice from a tree top. Priestesses were called Peleaides, or doves.

Rivalry between the oracle of Zeus at Dodona and that of Apollo at Delphi became keen. Priestesses of the former invented new ways of receiving messages, including interpretations of the murmurs of a brook, and the sounds of a metal-tipped whip as the wind drove it against a bronze tripod.

Croesus Read His Answer Wrongly

Croesus was supposed to have consulted the Dodona oracle about his proposed campaign against Cyrus, king of the Persians. He acted upon the more flattering prophecy at Delphi which promised he would "destroy a great kingdom." The prediction was verified; the kingdom destroyed was his own.

Few biographies of women are more fascinating than that of Olympias. She was the daughter of a King of Epirus who traced his ancestry to a son of Achilles. She married Philip II, of Macedon. Her character betrays an amazing compound of the devoted mother, the pleasure seeking of a Cleopatra, and the astute statesmanship of Maria Theresa. Plutarch gives a vivid

description of her fantastic snake dances. Estranged from Philip, she was suspected of having a part in his murder.

Pyrrhus, descended from Alexander's aunt, waged a war with Rome and made Epirus a power in world politics for a brief period. A century and a half after his death the Romans annihilated the forces of Perseus at Pydna and the punishment meted out to Epirus for its part in the war was the destruction of 70 of her principal cities and enslavement of 150,000 of her citizens. The kingdom never recovered from that blow.

Epirus is extremely mountainous. From ancient times to the present day its cattle and horses have been noted and it was famous for a peculiar breed of dog, the Molossian.

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A GROUP OF GREEK PEASANTS (See Bulletin No. 5)

Lineal descendants of men who, 2,000 years ago, were the custodians of the world's art, culture, and science. Uncouth in appearance, yet friendly and hospitable, are these peasants who possess the heritage of a glorious past.